

REMARKS

Claims 7-30 and 37-68 are pending in the application, with claims 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 51 and 56 being independent. Claims 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 51 and 56 have been amended and claims 61-68 have been added.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 25-30, 43 and 44.

Each of the independent claims has been amended to recite that the substrate is fixed by a pusher. These amendments find support in Fig. 17D and in the specification at page 50, line 28 to page 51, line 4. In view of these amendments, each of the independent claims recites a combination of fixing the substrate by the pusher and flattening the substrate by vacuum-sucking a lower surface of the substrate. This combination is very effective in that the substrate can be more flattened in irradiating the substrate with a laser beam, so that a uniform irradiation onto the substrate is achieved.

Claims 7-24, 37-42 and 45-60 have been rejected as being obvious over Imahashi in view of Celler. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Imahashi, Celler, nor any combination of the two, describes or suggests fixing a substrate using a the pusher and flattening the substrate by vacuum-sucking a lower surface of the substrate, as recited in each of the independent claims. Moreover, neither Imahashi nor Celler would have provided motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Imahashi and Celler in the manner suggested by the Examiner. For at least these reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Applicant : Yamazaki, et al.
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Page : 19 of 19

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Enclosed is an \$860 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee (\$110) and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) fee (\$750). Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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